

PORTSMOUTH NEWS

THE WORK OF A FIREBUG

There is Little Doubt that Sunday's Fire Was of Incendiary Origin.

REWARD FOR CAPTURE AND CONVICTION

At a Meeting of Citizens It Was Agreed to Ask the Council to Offer \$500 and the Meeting Becomes Responsible—Money Contributed to Relieve the Many Sufferers.

A colored woman who resides in a building next to Whitcomb's hall states that shortly after midnight she heard the sound of some one striking matches at the rear of the hall, but was afraid to look out or make a noise, feeling certain that incendiaries were at work. She heard them going away and looking out saw two white men running down the alley. She rushed to the front and called to the first passer-by, who chanced to be an officer. This has proven, apparently, the assertion that the great fire, the greatest in the history of Portsmouth, was the work of a firebug.

A GENEROUS OFFER.

Professor Charles Borjes has tendered the services of his military band to Mayor Baird for any entertainment that may be given for the benefit of the fire sufferers.

Thousands of people visited Portsmouth Sunday to see the ruins of the fire. During the day Rev. J. B. Funsten, rector of Trinity, and Rev. Z. B. Farland, rector of St. John's Episcopal churches, and Rev. Dr. George H. Ray, of Central Methodist church, called on Rev. Father Brady and Lucke, of St. Paul's Catholic church, and tendered the use of their churches to hold services in. This is a Christian spirit that will be applauded by all alike. The use of Army hall was also tendered and was accepted by Father Brady, who gives notice that services will be held there until some other arrangement can be made.

The loss is thought now will not exceed \$50,000—\$70,000 in the property and \$10,000 on the furniture. Total insurance \$43,000.

It is also said that the loss will be over \$100,000 all told. As a matter of fact, the total loss will perhaps never be accurately known, there being much minor damage from small fires.

The brave blue jackets, with the navy-yard engine, are entitled to be enrolled with the other heroes of the terrible fight for a city's life; also the Rescue department of the county, a colored orphan, who did excellent work.

During the fire Sunday some person went to W. A. Fiske's printing office, burst a panel out the back door, split it up and built a pig pen out of the wood, filled it full of paper, set it on fire and left. The opening caused a draft and blew the paper all over the passage, which kept the fire burning. Had this fire gotten off there is no telling where it would have ended.

Sunday night some one tried for the first time to set fire to the house on Chestnut street, next to Race avenue, belonging to Mr. Pearson. It was put out by a colored woman before it gained much headway.

A gentleman told The Virginian representative Sunday afternoon that while going up South street some men saw two papers sticking out a window. They pulled them out and found them saturated with kerosene oil. They notified the owner of the house, who said it had not been more than fifteen minutes since he had pulled in his blinds and there were no papers there. It is thought that the papers were put there to set that house off that night, thinking that no one lived there.

There was one million gallons of water used at the fire, which caused the reservoir to go down four feet, and that left one million gallons in the stand pipe and the reservoir together, and at no time was there any trouble in getting water.

Below we give the amount of pressure at different hours. This table shows how the fire stream could have been thrown at the hours mentioned, and divide that by two and you will have the exact amount of water pressure and with seven plugs in use it shows that the company is capable of furnishing sufficient water at all times if necessary:

At 1:30 o'clock a. m., 170 feet.
At 3 o'clock down to 60 feet.
At 3:30 o'clock 160 feet.
At 4 o'clock 140 feet.
At 4:30 o'clock 140 feet.
At 5 o'clock 140 feet.
At 6 o'clock 140 feet.
At 7 o'clock 140 feet.
At 8 o'clock 140 feet.
At 9 o'clock 140 feet.
At 10 o'clock 140 feet.
At 11 o'clock 140 feet.
At 12 o'clock 140 feet.

Mr. Samuel W. Oast's wood yard was on fire in fifteen places at one time from the sparks. There were several persons kept in the yard all the time with water ready for an emergency.

The sparks set fire to a chip bank in the navy-yard, which was put out by the watchmen.

A number of other places caught, but a list of them could not be obtained.

Phillips & Mahoney, on Union bridge, had steam in their boilers and had their hose attached, and as soon as a spark fell it was put out.

Wm. Corgins, the peanut vender, deserves special credit for saving a row of houses on King street, which caught five or six times. He had on top his house a hose and used to to advantage and saved much property.

The Annex boys deserve much credit; also the colored fire company.

NOTES.
Our friend Glassett, of the Landmark, loses \$1,600 outside of his insurance.

A collection was taken up Sunday night at Trinity P. E. church, \$38.50 was collected for the benefit of the sufferers.

There have been no arrests made on account of the fire, although there were rumors to that effect. The loss was not so heavy as was at first thought.

The people of Portsmouth feel deeply grateful to Norfolk for their kindness in sending the much needed hook and ladder and engine to our assistance Sunday morning.

In twenty minutes from the time a message was received by the captain of the ferry boat from Mr. Gill the ferry boat went to Norfolk Sunday morning at 2:30 o'clock and had the engine in Portsmouth. The boat had only a few pounds of steam when she left the dock.

The Virginian was highly complimentary yesterday for its full account of the



Celebrated for its great leavening strength and healthfulness. Assures the food against alum and all forms of adulteration common to the cheap grades. ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

fire only a few hours after it started. The demand for the same was great yesterday and several hundred more could have been disposed of. In our account of the fire the name of Captain Owens, who was in command of the Rifles, was made to read Captain Rodgers.

St. Paul's Requiem.

An impressive incident in connection with the burning of St. Paul's church on Sunday morning, was the solemn tolling of the bell by Father Lucke, the assistant pastor, until the roof of the doomed edifice was almost ready to fall in. The crowd in the street had seen the large brand fall on the roof and begin eating its way into the interior, but could not reach it owing to the lack of a ladder. The fire reached the interior in a few moments, and in as equally short time the flames began leaping up the spire, and it was realized that no human power could save the sacred structure.

Suddenly there rang out the deep note of the bell, announcing to the thousands in the street below that the last hour of the building in which many of them had so often worshipped God, had come. More fierce grew the flames as they enveloped the spire to its summit and twined their destroying arms about the gilded cross, but still the solemn notes of the deep-throated bell pealed out the requiem of the dissolving edifice. The strokes grew less frequent, then ceased. The air was still tremulous with the mournful notes when the devoted priest emerged from the building after performing this last task for the old church he loved so well.

It was but a little while until the roof fell.

MEETING OF CITIZENS.

Movement to Protect the City Against the Fire Bug.

Notices were read in all of the city churches Sunday morning from Mayor J. T. Baird requesting a meeting of the citizens to be held at 4 o'clock p. m. at the City hall to take steps to relieve the distress occasioned by the fire early yesterday morning, and in pursuance to the said notices, there was a large gathering of representative citizens at the appointed hour.

The mayor called the meeting to order and stated that it was in order to elect a chairman and secretary.

The mayor was elected to preside and the representatives of the press present were requested to act as secretaries.

Mr. John L. Thomas moved that the secretaries open a list of subscribers to a relief fund and stated that he would head the list with \$50.

Mr. Newton McAlpine moved that Mr. G. Hutton be elected treasurer of the fund collected.

Mr. Hutton objected and the motion was not acted on.

Mr. L. P. Elster moved that the chair appoint a committee of five to solicit and disburse the funds.

Mr. E. N. Wilcox moved that a general committee of fifteen be appointed with authority to subdivide the work among themselves.

Mr. Thomas said he thought the relief should be applied at once and feared that a committee of fifteen would be too large and would move too slowly, but he would raise no objection to it.

A vote was taken on Mr. Wilcox's motion and it was adopted.

Mr. James F. Crocker moved that the chair designate two or three of the members of the committee of fifteen to solicit subscriptions from those present at the meeting.

The chair appointed the following members of the committee: Messrs. J. L. Thomas, L. R. Watts, R. H. Barrett, James F. Crocker, W. H. Stewart, L. E. Betty, C. E. Outten, John T. Halstead, John C. Morris, W. H. Fairless, S. T. Montague, W. B. Thomas, W. H. V. Williams, John L. Watson and John R. Neely.

Deputy J. C. Cresap, U. S. N., moved that the committee be authorized in addition to the power vested in it to solicit subscriptions to ascertain also those who are in need of assistance.

Adopted.

Judge L. R. Watts moved that the City Council be requested to increase the advertised rewards for the arrest and conviction of the incendiaries to \$500.

The motion was advocated by Major James F. Crocker, who thought the time had come for the appointment of a secret committee of safety whose names shall be known only to themselves.

There have been too many incendiary fires in the past few weeks.

The motion was further discussed by Colonel William T. Stewart, Mr. W. V. H. Williams, Mr. H. L. Maynard and Mayor Baird, and was adopted.

Captain W. H. Murdaugh moved that it is the sense of this meeting that there be appointed by the chair a committee of safety.

Adopted.

Captain E. V. White suggested that this meeting become responsible for the additional \$400 reward pending action of the Council, and Captain White, Mr. W. H. V. Williams and Judge L. T. Watts pledged themselves to become so responsible.

On motion of Judge Watts, the thanks of the community were extended to the Norfolk City Fire Department, the Norfolk County Fire Department, and to Admiral Brown and the fire department of the navy yard for assistance rendered at the fire Sunday morning.

Colonel William H. Stewart moved that the thanks of the meeting be extended to the Portsmouth Fire Department for the gallant manner in which they contended against the flames at the said fire. Adopted.

Messrs. James F. Crocker, R. H. Barrett, W. H. V. Williams and John L. Watson, the collecting committee, waited on the meeting and collected \$553.25. On motion adjourned.

Meeting of the Relief Committee.

The committee of fifteen appointed by the citizens' meeting Sunday met yesterday morning in the office of the Portsmouth Insurance company.

The sub-committee on disbursements reported that they had distributed \$200 among the white families and \$165 to eighteen colored families.

The Woman's Christian Benevolent Union were requested to unite with the committee in the distribution of the remainder of the money and provisions on hand. In addition to the money subscribed, the committee has received a number of donations of furniture and provisions.

The committee will meet Thursday at 12 o'clock m. at the same place. All donations will be thankfully received.

A Hook and Ladder and What It Could Have Saved.

The necessity of a hook and ladder was never more fully demonstrated than it was Sunday morning. The sparks were flying thick and fast and some of them were very large. One of them, several feet long, fell on the Catholic church in the gully and laid there for some time. Had there been a ladder near at hand the piece could have been pulled down and there would have been no need of the church having burned. Then the property on High street would not have caught, but through the idea of economy in our Council we had none, and but for the charity of Norfolk in sending a hook and ladder over the loss would have been much greater. A number of harsh things was said about the Council, and unless some definite action is taken at the next meeting the people will be much disappointed.

A Generous Act.

During the fire Sunday morning Chief Engineer Robinson went to the Madison hotel and ordered fifteen breakfasts for the Norfolk firemen, stating that he would be responsible for the same. Yesterday the Chief called to get the bill and was told by Mr. Lee that there was no bill charged for the same. He donated that much to the gallant firemen of Norfolk, who so nobly and willingly came to the aid of our people in the time of need and rendered such excellent service, and as a citizen of Portsmouth he felt that he could not be too grateful for the same. This shows a generous spirit on the part of Mr. Lee and that he has the interest of Portsmouth at heart, and will be greatly appreciated by our people.

Arrested for Stealing at the Fire.

A negro named Tobie Jenkins was arrested Sunday morning for stealing clothes from some of those who were burned out at the fire. He was locked up and will have a hearing this morning.

Unintentionally Slighted.

In mentioning the military that was called out Sunday morning the name of Grimes' Battery, who were out in large numbers, was unintentionally omitted. In the hurry and anxiety to get an account of the fire in the paper we omitted them. The Virginian regrets it and assures them that it was purely accidental.

Sunday School Association.

The Portsmouth Sunday School association held its regular monthly meeting with Wright Memorial Sunday school Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

Captain E. V. White, president, called the meeting to order. The opening exercises were begun by singing hymn 112 and prayer by the Rev. W. R. Proctor.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The reading of the reports of the various schools showed that Central church for attendance, and Park View for contributions and punctuality, were entitled to the banner for March.

Singing hymn 188.

A recitation was given by Miss Agnes Traflet.

Singing hymn 148.

Captain E. V. White and Mr. A. C. Bushnell addressed the association briefly on Sunday school affairs.

Duet by Misses Emma Martin and Louisa Brewster.

Hymn 122 was then sung by the schools and the association dismissed with the benediction by the Rev. John T. Bosman.

Funeral of Leon Jenkins.

The funeral of young Leon Jenkins, who died Sunday morning at an early hour, was conducted from the residence of his parents, on King street, yesterday. The services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Ray, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Mitchell. The remains were interred in Oak Grove cemetery.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c. apb-tu,thu,sat,7m

For the Ladies.

An assortment of Straw Sallors—a clearance. W. E. Virmelson & Co.

The Handsomest

line of neckwear ever exhibited in Portsmouth or vicinity is now on exhibition at our stores.

LEVY & JACOBS, Gent's Outfitters. Under Madison 200 High street.

Always in season, Hopkins' Steamed

Holins (called Corn). Elegant lunch in Milk. Quart can. 10 cents.

The Great Cut in Dress Goods and Cloaks Extended Three Days Longer.

Ask to be shown our large and pretty assortment of embroideries which have just arrived. A. J. Phillips, Oxford Hall.

Pneumatic Rubber Tires on Baby Carriages is the latest thing out. Full line in stock. Gendron Bicycles have arrived. Best and prettiest on the market. See them at J. S. CRAWFORD'S Furniture and Carpet House.

Get under a Stetson spring hat light weight.

CHAS. R. WELTON & CO.

NOTHING CAN STOP IT

The Constant Increase in Exports from This Port Goes Steadily On.

NEW LINE OF STEAMERS TO COPENHAGEN

Negotiations Completed—Pennsylvania Railroad Seeking to Make Its Main Southern Terminus at This Port—Chesapeake and Ohio Will Probably Build to Norfolk.

With the recent decision of the Supreme Court, upsetting railroad commissions, which have so long controlled the traffic of the trunk lines in favor of shipments moving via the largest ports to the detriment of this port with its superior water facilities, it is well understood among railroad men in this vicinity that the Pennsylvania railroad, in the purchase of its property at Port Norfolk and Pinner's Point, has consummated one of the most successful deals in its already extremely successful history.

The statistics, published in The Virginian recently of the rapidly increasing export trade of Portsmouth, Norfolk and Newport News, proved astonishing to the public. For some time the managers of the trunk lines have recognized their inability by freight rates to keep traffic from gradually drifting towards the most convenient and least expensive ports, and to-day we are confronted with the situation that, notwithstanding the united efforts of the wealthy exporters, bankers and business men of New York, nothing can stop the daily decrease in the grain exports from that point, which have been falling off at a rate that has demoralized the most far-sighted and successful of its merchants. Boston has appealed to the foreign ship-owners to help them without avail, and to meet the demands of its business and to place it self in new territory, where it could keep itself foremost among the railroad feeders of this country, we find the preliminary work for the advancement of this great Pennsylvania railroad in our midst, and the work of constructing the Port Norfolk line will commence in a short while.

Port Norfolk, the terminus of this line, is admirably situated for such a purpose. The work when started will be on such a large scale as to exceed the expectations of our most sanguine business men, and the benefits to be derived cannot now be anticipated.

A NEW STEAMSHIP LINE.

Negotiations that have been pending for a line of steamers to Copenhagen have now, it is said, been consummated. This, in conjunction with the three foreign lines now operating to this port, besides the numerous tramp steamers constantly plying across the water, will give an immense impetus to our export trade. Then there is the enormous amount of heavy commodities that move in carload shipments that must at present go via Richmond. The rapidity with which these will move, and the facility with which truck and fast trains can be whirled to Western markets will increase the volume of business in these commodities also, and instead of the vast arteries of trade, foreign, coastwise and domestic, being confined to a few hundred miles along the coast and in the interior, our harbor will witness in a few years the commingling and exchange here of all products from every part of the United States, and from all parts of Europe, South America and the West Indies.

The Pennsylvania railroad is making the start on a broad basis. Ninety thousand dollars has already been expended for right of way and terminal facilities. The business from the various lines with which it bisects at present, it is said, will more than pay expenses. To increase its earnings will now be its main object, and that means increased business, which means more labor employed, the necessity for more exporting and commission merchants, and greater banking facilities. The people of Portsmouth, of Norfolk and of Newport News are to be congratulated on the enterprise of the Pennsylvania railroad in seeking to make its main Southern terminus in this harbor.

C. & O. WANTS IT.

To a large extent it is conceded that the desire of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad in securing a franchise for the bridge to Manchester for the purpose of building on the south side of the James river to reach this harbor.

It is a well known fact that the granting of this franchise was bitterly fought, and it is alleged by the Norfolk and Western railroad. It is even stated that the various franchises granted by the Virginia Legislature for railroads between Richmond and Portsmouth have been or are now controlled by the friends of the Norfolk and Western railroad. It is that as may, the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad have secured their franchise, and the announcement has been made that the bridge will be built at once, and it is the desire of the Chesapeake and Ohio to reach this place of the river over its own track such plans will no doubt come to light in the near future. If they do, and the Norfolk and Western railroad has the financial backing now claimed to be behind it, the near

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

PORTSMOUTH ADV'S.

A Card of Thanks.

I take this method of offering for myself and congregation our heartfelt thanks to Admiral Geo. Brown and the officers and men of the Navy Yard Fire Department, Chief Martin Ryan and members of the Norfolk Fire Department; the officers and men of the Norfolk County Fire Department and Chief Thomas Robinson and our own firemen and citizens generally for the brave and valuable assistance rendered by them in their efforts to save our church building in the late disastrous conflagration, which devastated our fair city, and to assure them that their kind and noble efforts will ever be remembered and appreciated by the Catholics of St. Paul's congregation.

THOS. J. BRADY, Pastor of St. Paul's Church.

NOTICE

A mass-meeting of all Catholics and others interested in the rebuilding of St. Paul's Church, recently destroyed by fire, will be held at Oxford Hall on THURSDAY EVENING at 8 o'clock. At this meeting subscriptions will be received for the rebuilding fund. All in sympathy with this object are requested to be present.

THOS. J. BRADY, Pastor St. Paul's Catholic Church.

ma30-3t

How did it happen

that the old-fashioned, laborious way of washing was ever given to woman as her particular work? It's an imposition on her. She ought to have had only the easiest things to do—and men, strong, healthy men, ought to have taken up this washing business. Now, here is a suggestion. In those families that still stick to soap and make their washing needlessly hard and unpleasant, let the men do that work. They're better fitted for it. In the families that use Pearline (use without soap) and make washing easy, let the women do it. They won't mind it.

Millions NOW USE Pearline

PORTSMOUTH ADV'S. PORTSMOUTH ADV'S.

Spring Suits!

\$5.50	\$7.50	\$10
WORTH	WORTH	WORTH
\$7.50.	10.00.	\$15.00.

The neatest Patterns and the Largest Assortment of Ready-to-Wear Clothing ever offered at these prices—our guarantee of fit and absolute satisfaction.

We positively say without fear of being contradicted, that we are displaying the very best values in Up-to-Date Clothing and Furnishings.

STRICTLY ONE-PRICE—FOR CASH ONLY.

MAURICE A. BRANDT & CO., (Brandt Building.) 215 HIGH STREET.

LOST—FOX TERRIER, strayed—white, brown over left eye, answering to the name of "PET." Last seen in Portsmouth. Return for reward to bar, Hotel Norfolk. ma30-3t

FOR SALE—Nice new residence, Cooke street, Park View; 10 rooms; all modern conveniences; also, truck, dairy and grain farm near city. Apply to T. G. PITCHARD, corner Cook and Holiday street, Portsmouth, Va. ma29-1m

A CARD.

I take this method of returning thanks to friends, firemen and citizens generally, who so kindly assisted in extinguishing the fire which threatened the destruction of my residence on Sunday morning, and particularly to mention the services of the Annex Hose Company of Norfolk county, whose gallantry evidently saved that section of the city from a like disaster to that which befell other portions of the city. Sincerely, C. S. SHERWOOD, ma30-1t

For Sale—A Soda Fountain

With 12 syrup faucets; 1 double steam draft tube; 2 tubes for mineral water; two 12 gallon copper tanks, a large marble slab for use at fountain, 1 milk shake, good as new. Apply at FRIDLEY & WILLIS, Portsmouth, or Whaley & Co., Weymouth, Va. ma28-1t

Notice to the Tax-Payers of Portsmouth

THE CITY COLLECTOR IS MAKING out the Delinquent Tax List for 1896 taxes, which will be presented to the City Council at its April meeting. Persons who have not yet paid their taxes, and do not want their names to appear on the list, will please come forward and settle. R. A. HUTCHINS, City Collector. ma28-5t

Easter Display

OF FINE, FASHIONABLE

MILLINERY!

PORTSMOUTH STILL ON TOP.

MISS ANNIE L. STOKES, so long the recognized leading milliner of this whole section, is now about ready for her

Spring and Summer Opening.

She has just returned with the largest and most complete stock of Millinery Goods ever displayed in this city, and her Easter Opening will take place on WEDNESDAY, March 31st, at 10 o'clock. Her new styles, April 1st, 1897, at her Palace store, 514 Crawford street, where all the novelties of the season will be displayed.

MISS STOKES has secured an up-to-date milliner to aid her in accommodating even the most fastidious tastes.

All the ladies of Portsmouth, Norfolk and Berkley are invited to call. No personal invitations issued this season. ma28-3t

Why Pay Fancy Prices?

When you can buy Rumford's Yeast Powder at 9c. per bottle; all 5c. grades at 4c.; Octagon Soap 12c. per bar; Octagon Soap 7 bars for 25c.; all grades Washing Powder 4c. per box; Roll Butter 15c. per pound; New York State Butter 25c. per pound; Best Fresh Elgin Creamery 25c. per pound; Baltimore Lard 6c. per pound; Momo Made Lard 8c. per pound; good Tea at 15c.; one dozen boxes Globe Matches 8c. ma28-3t

Cor. Bart and Green streets. Phone No. 983.

Paving Bonds for Sale!

Office of the City Council Chamber, Portsmouth, Va., March 19, 1897. THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, VA., offers for sale \$10,000 Coupon Paving Bonds, payable in ten years from December 1st, 1898, and bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent., per annum payable semi-annually, in June and December. These bonds are in denominations of \$100 and \$50, are exempt from city taxes and can be registered principal and interest or principal only, at the option of the holders. Sealed proposals addressed to E. Thompson, Jr., City Clerk, will be received until WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31st, 1897, 6 p. m., for the purchase of these bonds, the city reserving the right to reject all or any of the bids. Communications, other than proposals, should be addressed to JOHN J. KING, mr20-1st Chairman Finance Committee.

Children's Duck and Crash Tam O'Shaners. W. E. Virmelson & Co.

SPECIAL SALE!

A genuine Smithfield Ham at 15c. per lb. Try one. Choice Elgin Creamery Butter at 22c. per lb. A pound of pure unadulterated Coffee, roasted and ground, 15c. 3 pound can Table Peaches, peeled and put up in heavy sugar syrup, 15c. Can Eagle Brand Condensed Milk, 15c. Pure Butcher's Lard, 7c. 3 pound package Hotted Onions, 7c.

J. T. PARKER & BRO., Grocers and Dealer in Feed. New Phone 108. Old Phone 912.

HAMS. HAMS. HAMS.

Just received a fine lot of Unity, North Carolina and Southampton County Hams; New Orleans Syrup; pure creamery Butter. Give us a call.

ELENOR & ARMENTROUT

808 CRAWFORD STREET, ma19-1m

HAVE YOU MONEY TO INVEST

DO YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR PRINCIPAL SECURE AND YET MAKE TWO OR THREE DOLLARS